

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 118, No. 46

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Stranger than Fiction



Stranger than Fiction is not what audiences expect

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City sponsors lunch for senior veterans

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A big collection

Cory Elementary School kindergarteners learned an important lesson about helping less fortunate individuals this holiday season when they participated in a food drive recently. The canned good collection was part of the school "Learning to Give" program, which helps students understand the importance of charity. This year, kindergartners who brought a can got to wear their pajamas to school. Here (left to right), Jalen Ellis, Olivia Riggs, Kara Ward, Shelbi Skomiczny, Rachel Seick and Delonte Hill show off some of the food donated.



Schools may lose some students

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

With state per-pupil funding on the line, Romulus Community Schools officials believe the student head count will be somewhat less that it was in September.

Superintendent of Schools Carl Weiss said the increase of 38 students recorded on the first official count day two months ago has dropped slightly. However, he said he is still happy with the district performance on the enrollment front, especially considering the number of families moving out of the state because of job losses and

competition from other school districts.

"We did well considering what we're facing," he said. "Right now, I'm still very, very pleased with where we are."

In September, the schools revealed enrollment increases, which resulted in a net gain of about \$277,000 in state funding.

That amount - which will slightly decrease when an official count is filed with the state later this week - will be a great help for a district that is undergoing fiscal challenges.

"This puts us in a good situation for our budget - had we lost 50

or 100 students, we'd be facing some real economic hardships right now," he said. "We couldn't afford to have that happen."

Count day occurs twice in a given school year. The November count is far more important because per pupil funding - in Romulus that means \$8,300 per student - is determined by the student population.

The funding structure for schools - combined with competition created by charter schools in the area - has placed districts in a situation where they must con-

See **Schools**, page 3

Men sought in robbery of woman

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has approved warrant requests submitted by the Romulus Police Department for two men accused of robbing an elderly Canadian woman.

Detective Dewayne DeCaires said two Westland men, each 37-years-old, will be charged with one count of larceny, a 10-year-felony, one count of larceny from a building, a four-year felony and breaking and entering without intent, a misdemeanor for their role in stealing about \$20,000

from a woman at a Romulus hotel.

DeCaires said both of the men have confessed, and that one has agreed to turn himself into authorities to be arraigned at the 34th District Court.

"We have conducted search warrants on the homes of the men, and we weren't able to recover any of her belongings," he said. "Initially, we were able to recover about \$14,000 in cash."

"The victim in this case lives in Canada, and she doesn't have enough money to back over here for trial," he added. "I'm probably going to have to cross the bor-

der to get things back to her."

The incident that led to charges against the men occurred early last month, when the elderly woman was returning from a trip to Florida. She stopped to spend the night at a Romulus hotel, and she paid the men to carry some things to from her car to her hotel room, DeCaires said.

"She gave one of them \$20 to take a cooler to her hotel room, and while one of them did that, the other went through her hotel room," he said. "They just about

See **Victim**, page 3

Casino project means jobs

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An environmental study is nearly complete at the Vining Road site where Romulus officials hope a casino will stand.

Mayor Alan Lambert said The Bureau of Indian Affairs subcontracted the inspection to make sure environmental due diligence is performed before ground is broken for the structure, and that this is one of the final steps before construction can begin.

"We've been informed that the environmental study will be complete within the next few weeks - by the end of the year, for sure," Lambert said.

"They should be able to break ground by the spring," he said. "It's a \$1 million a day business, and they're going to want to move very quickly."

There will be temporary facility like there was in Detroit - the building the tribe constructs will be a permanent casino, Lambert said.

Romulus and the Hannahville Indian Tribe of Petoskey signed an agreement that cleared the way for the tribe to build a casino on Interstate 94 and Vining Road near Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A 200-room hotel with restaurants and stores will also be built as part of the deal.

The tribe is waiting for congressional approvals before building can start.

The casino could bring in an estimated \$6 to \$10 million dollars into the city, and about 1,200 jobs. Indian casinos don't pay traditional property taxes on land - but the agreement works out to the benefit of the city because those taxes would add up to about \$200,000 per year, according to city assessments.

Even before operations begin, the casino will create a jobs bonanza for struggling building contractors coping with an overall lull in the construction industry.

"There's going to be work for a lot of contractors in the building trades, electrical contractors, and others," Lambert said. "It's going to play out the same way Ford Field and Comerica Park did - there will be a bid procedure in place."

See **Casino**, page 3

School officials respond to redistricting concerns

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Proposed changes to the boundaries of Tyler and Edgemont elementary schools are causing concern among parents, particularly those who live in Canton Township.

Some are worried that the Van Buren Public School District is giving preferential treatment to schools of choice students rather than the ones that live within the district. Officials said that is not the case.

"We would not do that," said Paul Henning, spokesperson for the district. "Some people feel the school of choice students are pushing students out of Tyler, but that's not a fact. The reason we're doing this is the disparity in the elementary and middle schools and overpopulation."

"I know people think we can solve our problems by limiting schools of choice, but year after year it seems like we don't have great enough numbers there," said Martha Toth, a member of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. "That's something we're looking into."

The proposed changes for Edgemont include transferring the students that live on the I-94 Service Drive to the north shore of Belleville Lake and across to the north side of the Belleville bridge to Rawsonville Elementary. Quirk Road, Juniper Road, Meadows Court, Meadows

Lane, Meadows Circle and Lake Villa Drive will remain in the Edgemont boundaries.

All students that who between Belleville Road and Morton Taylor on the east and west, and Yost and Ecorse roads on the north and south will be moved from Haggerty Elementary school to Edgemont.

Tyler is unique among the elementary schools within the district because it houses the Gifted and Talented program. There are currently 186 students in the program who come from other schools and, while there are only 346 students residing within the boundaries of Tyler, the total student count rises to 532 when the program students are added, officials said.

As part of the proposed plan for the 2007-2008 school year, the redistricting would not only alleviate the crowded conditions that exist in some of the schools and equalize attendance, but also allow more efficient bus routing with decreased time spent on busses for the students.

"We realize the emotional nature and the difficulty of moving from one school to another so we are offering attendance waivers," said Henning. "We're trying to be very up front and have all the information out there because we know the emotional situation."

Tyler Principal Margaret Voight said she understands how parents feel because she too went

through a similar situation with her own children. However, it's not a matter of one school being better than the other, she said.

"I truly know how the parents feel, but I don't have a good solution for them. I do know the school district will work with them because it is an adjustment," she said.

She also sees the school is overcrowded and its effects, Voight said.

"We've had to put the music program on the stage and make larger class sizes, too, so overcrowding is an issue," she said. "The more crowded the classrooms are the more disciplinary problems you could run into because of space concerns. Now, the students can get out and go outside for recess, but when the weather changes and they're indoors, it will be interesting to see how it goes then."

Karen Mida, principal at Edgemont Elementary, said she's excited about the change.

"We're not losing the numbers in students, but there will be a shift of students," she said. "I know some parents are not happy, but they need to express that to the school board and the superintendent. Things are not set in stone, yet."

Parents were also concerned with the standards and academics of Rawsonville Elementary. Many felt they weren't high enough there and that students wouldn't be challenged. Henning

Proposed Redistricting Changes for 2006-07*

	Edge	Elwell	Hagg	Sav	Tyler	Raw
Current	520	289	505	525	532	436
Proposed	515	403	450	411	518	510

	North	South
Current	827	650
Proposed	759	718

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said there's obviously a misunderstanding because the school received a grade 'A' and 'B' the last two years on their Michigan School Report Card through No Child Left Behind.

Toth said she suspect's the boundary plans for the schools will be adapted according to feedback.

"There's an overwhelming desire to balance the elementaries and do it in a way that

sticks for a few years, but it's hard to project," she said. "We can plan for the future as much as what we see now with an eye for the future. This is the time we want to hear from people before we make a decision."

The next town hall meeting will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Dec. 4 at Belleville High School. The topic will be the proposed changes for North and South middle schools.

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32 Ponderosa N*, 97 Fleetwood 28x56, 3 bdrm, 2 bath+Den. Only \$37,000



306 Holly* Corner Lot, 3 bdrm/2 bath, 1987 Fairmont with appliances. Only \$27,000



213 Sugarbush* 78 Windsor 2 bdrm/2 bath new appliances 14x70. Only \$9,000



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Police having trouble finding suspect's true identity

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

When Romulus police officers go out to arrest someone, usually they don't have to worry about identifying the suspect.

That was put to the test last week when police officers picked up an individual who, because of altered fingerprints and multiple drivers' licenses, they were unable to identify.

Detective Dwayne DeCaires is asking for help in finding the real identity of the suspect, who was arrested for narcotics possession, and refuses to give officers his name.

"He has two aliases in Michigan," he said. "We're asking the media to run his photo in the hopes someone out there will know who he is."

When the suspect was arrested, he had

two driver's licenses that were issued by the Secretary of State. Both had the suspect's photo on them, but had different names.

"He admitted to us that he used the identity of a buddy of his," DeCaires said.

He also altered his fingerprints by using acid on his digits – which DeCaires has seen only a couple of times in his career.

"The two times I've seen someone do this, they were wanted for murder and bank robbery," he said. "When someone goes through this, you have to know that he is hiding something that is fairly big. It's not the kind of thing people do when they've done something small."

The suspect initially tried to use the false identification cards to prove his identity, but fingerprint records that could be used revealed the man could not possibly be who he claimed, said DeCaires.

Not having his correct identity did not stop police from charging the suspect. He is facing accusations of narcotics possession, a 10-year felony, and there are pending charges of identity theft for applying to secretary of state for a driver's license using someone else's name.

He is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male with light skin who is about 6-feet, 1-inch tall and weighs 210 pounds. He speaks fluent Spanish. DeCaires said the investigation has revealed he may be from southwest Detroit, or could be sought by police in the same area.

Anyone who knows the true identity of the suspect is asked to contact DeCaires of the Romulus Police Detective Bureau at (734) 942-6880. All information will be kept anonymous.



Romulus unidentified suspect

News in brief

Chamber looks for top businessperson

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 22nd "Person of the Year."

Nominees should be individuals who have made significant contributions to Romulus and its residents. The award is given to honor their achievements, according to chamber representatives.

Applicants are required to submit a biographical synopsis outlining their individual achievements in the community, including statements that directly address why the nominee should be awarded the Person of the Year designation.

The winner will be given the award at a ceremony in March 2007. No specific date has been set.

Nomination deadline is Dec. 15, 2006. Nomination forms are available at the chamber office and on the chamber website at www.romuluschamber.org. Chamber offices are located at 11189 Shook Road in Romulus.

For more information, contact Karen Labelle at (734) 893-0694.

Santa visits downtown

Romulus will begin the holiday season on Friday, Dec. 1, when Santa will make his official arrival just in time for the annual tree lighting.

The fun will begin at Romulus Historic Park (located on Hunt Street near the post office) at 5 p.m., when the Romulus Historical Commission and the Romulus Historical Society will open the museum and historic Kingsley house – both decorated for the season – to the public. The Golden Griffon Stringtet will provide entertainment in the Kingsley House and refreshments will be served in the museum.

At 6 p.m., Santa will arrive at the Historic Park, where Mayor Alan R. Lambert will present him with a "key to the city" and enlist his help to light the city tree.

Afterward, the Romulus Progressive Club will open the Progressive Hall, located at 11580 Ozga Road, near Five Points. The Lincoln Park Train Club, formerly the Trenton Train Club, will have train displays set up.

Entertainment, refreshments and gift bags for children will be provided courtesy of the Romulus Recreation Department.

Photos with Santa (\$2 each) will be available. The remainder of the program is free to Romulus residents.

Casino - Study nearly complete

FROM PAGE 1

The contract requires that the tribe advertise for the work to be done.

That's good news to a struggling construction industry, which has slowed in recent months, and a state that is still struggling with 7 percent unemployment.

"We wrote it into the contract that local, unionized contractors will be hired to do the work," Lambert said. "It should help people in this area get back to work."

There are no figures detailing how much many jobs will be available for local residents because it's too soon in the process to know

how many people are needed, Lambert said.

"It's just hard to tell right now, but it will be significant," he said.

The casino will be part of gaming area that will also include a harness racing track, and possibly another casino if another tribe expresses interest in building one. Together, the gaming jobs are expected to equal 3,300 new jobs.

The city also hopes the casinos will spur other development in the city – though Detroit received relatively little offshoot development from the three casinos there.

Michigan law allows a company to hold only three gaming licenses.



Numbers game

Finding new ways to teach math – the one subject that will help students get high-paying jobs in the future – is an important goal at Wick Elementary School. Teachers Chris Consales worked with students on a math game to help them understand addition and subtraction – concepts that are beginning to feel less abstract to the students. Elijah Proctor (front row, left to right), Toneea Williams and Lasacha Williams join (second row, left to right) Charity Page, Rachel Leonard, her mother, Kim Leonard and Shema Hibbard during game time.

Schools - Revised count still ahead of last year's numbers

FROM PAGE 1

stantly strive to lure students. Romulus Community Schools introduced Schools of Choice – which allows students from outside the district – to enroll in classes at Wick and Halecreek elementary schools.

Schools of Choice resulted in 34 new students in the district, many of whom already live in Romulus but attend Woodhaven schools

because of district boundaries.

The schools gained about 35 students from that program, and paid very little in terms of recruitment costs.

"Many schools advertised extensively for students, spending thousands of dollars," Weiss said. "Our research showed that those district who spent huge amounts of money did not see huge increases in enrollment, so I don't think we'll see an increase in our spend-

ing for ads next year."

District estimates indicate area schools spent about \$150,000 in advertising. Romulus Community Schools spent only \$10,000, and relied on grass-roots methods like mailers to get the word out about the choice program.

"Word of mouth was really the best way to do this," he said.

The September count showed that 4,341 students were enrolled in classes at the district.

Victim - Finances, situation tough for robbery victim

FROM PAGE 1

died when they discovered she had \$20,000 in cash."

The men then allegedly took the money, spent some of it on personal items, and then went on a four-day fishing trip in the city of Ludington, which is located off the coast of Lake Michigan.

On their way back to metro Detroit, the men were stopped by Michigan State Police troopers for a minor traffic infraction. Det.

Sgt. Andrew Fias of the Michigan State Police Hart Post said the men were arrested once it was discovered they were wanted in Romulus.

The men spent a few hours in the state police lock up in Detroit, and were later released while Romulus Police pursued charges on the pair. Some of the woman's possessions and about \$13,000 of her money was found in the vehicle with the men, Fias said.

The State Police, which executed a search warrant on the motel room. They did find evidence in the room that may lead the Mason County Prosecutor's Office to additional charges against the men.

DeCaires said the larceny has been traumatic for the woman, and that it's easy to become a victim when you're traveling.

"I've been in contact with her about every day since this happened," he said.

OPINION

Voters sent clear message

If the election last week showed anything, it was that the times are a changing.

A near record number of voters turned out to cast their ballots on issues both state-wide and local and what those voters said showed a change in philosophy throughout western Wayne County.

Perhaps it was a backlash that filtered down from dissatisfaction with the Republican agenda on a federal level, but voters in the primarily Republican communities of western Wayne County tended to vote across party lines more than they have in the past. They, in fact, did their part to wrest control of the state House from the Republican Party and came closer to gaining control of the Senate.

The best example of this was in the 21st House District, where a two-term incumbent Phil LaJoy faced off against a relative unknown in Al Sinis. Out of all the Republicans seeking re-election this year, LaJoy had arguably the easiest row to hoe. He's done a solid job in his first two years and faced little negative campaigning. And, for that matter, Sinis never showed up for anything. He didn't respond to inquiries about his positions, never attended any political forums. He could have filed for election and moved to Pluto for all we know.

Yet he gathered 16,769 votes in the district, compared to 21,478 for LaJoy, according to the Secretary of State web site. That's nearly 44 percent.

Canton also yielded another surprise, when Democrat Kevin McNamara beat out former State Senator Loren Bennett in that community on his way to an easy victory to the Wayne County Commission.

The times are changing, indeed.

Republicans are now re-evaluating the way they campaigned this year in hopes of making gains during the next election cycle. It will probably mean a shift in strategies—the emphasis on the August primary, which may have done in Republican candidate Mark Abbo, is no longer a sure strategy. In fact, the Republican redistricting that combined the primarily Democratic City of Wayne to the heavily Republican communities of Plymouth, Northville and Canton, may have backfired—as far as the GOP is concerned.

It will make for some interesting election seasons to come. Hopefully it will mean that candidates for office will have to work harder and focus on the issues, rather than the attack ads.

Public deserved to know of potential park problem

The issue with Central City Park in Westland is a troubling one on several levels.

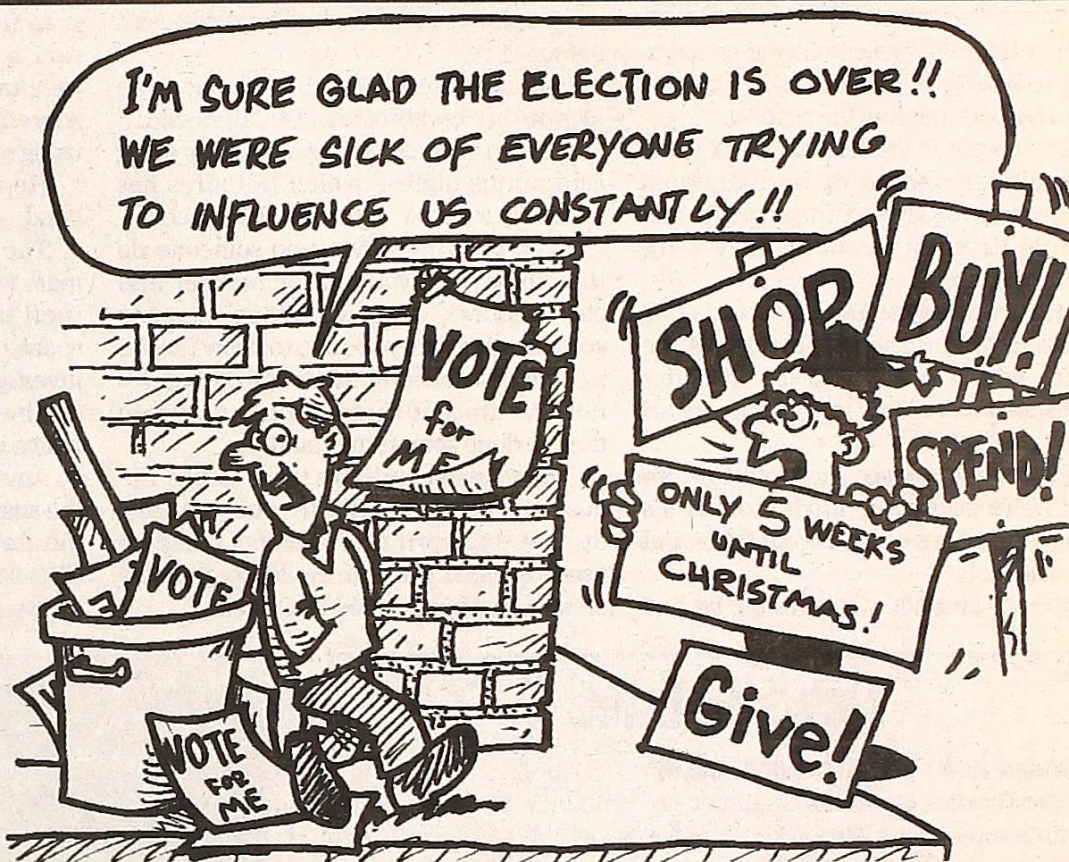
For those who don't know, the park, which is behind Westland City Hall, was closed recently amid concerns of high levels of lead in some locations, primarily along the western edge near the baseball fields.

The site, owned by Wayne County and leased to the city through 2008, is one of the most popular parks in the city and the location of the biggest community events.

What's troubling is not that the toxins were found there—it is an old dumping site and this would not be the first time that local officials have to deal with a mess left behind by other agencies—but exactly how much Westland officials knew, and when, and what they steps they did or did not take at that time—and why.

Testing has been going on since 1999, but that has taken place at many old dumping grounds during that time period, so the testing itself should not necessarily mean that Westland officials had knowledge of problems dating back that far. Indeed, members of the city council have said they were taken by surprise on the issue when it came to a head last week.

See **Park**, page 5



The unpleasant, expensive truth

*Your loss is measured in illusions;
Your gain is all in bittersweet intelligence
And your winsome smile will lose some of its innocence...*

—Chris Smither

It's strange how this series has evolved since I first thought of it and prepare now to bring it to a close.

It has sort of followed my own reactions to my drunken driving arrest earlier this summer. First there was bitterness and blame—don't even ask me about the Top Nine Reasons You Know You're Having a Bad Year (Number one was: Your name is Scott Spielman). Then embarrassment and panic led the way to a gradual acceptance of the way my life will change.

I've come to a few conclusions along the way. The biggest one is that this 'responsible driver fee' charged by the State of Michigan has to go. This is unfairly punitive. It's hard to believe that, in a system that widely acknowledges that most people who are cited have made a one-time mistake, there is still a stipulation to punish someone for that mistake for two years. This is not just for drunken driving offenses, either. It's a blatant money grab, a

state fundraiser. Someone may try to make the argument that these funds go to good use, but I'll believe in Bigfoot before I believe that.

The other is that this is a widespread problem and the only cure—if there truly is one—is education.

I've had a lot of people ask me why I decided to write about it and that's the biggest reason. I realized I made a mistake. In the end, it doesn't matter what rationalization I used to explain it away: it comes down to that. I made a mistake and I wanted to try to make something positive out of it by giving other people something to think about before they went on to make their own mistakes.

You don't have to mess up to be pulled over for drunken driving. Maybe you have headlight out. Maybe someone else runs a light and rams into you. Maybe it's a snowy day and you spin a little out of control. What matters is that, as soon as a police officer smells anything on you, they've got you.

And, once they have you, it doesn't matter how you feel. What matters is what the little Breathalyzer says. If you, say, blow above a .10, and

See **Lesson**, page 5

Charter defeat was wise choice

Driving past the packed polls last Tuesday, it was easy to tell that either the charter commission or the organized opposition group would be big winners in Inkster.

As it turned out, in a more than 2-1 vote, the commission lost, and lost huge.

I can honestly say I had no premonition as to how this matter would come out until the returns came in; but I do have to say, I think the matter came out as it should.

Approving this charter would have spelled disaster for the city by setting up what amounts to co-mayor and manager system. And the voters saw through this.

Proponents of the charter say they lost because of misinformation, because of confusion, because people are inherently uncomfortable with change, and because of opposition that had self-serving interests at heart. But here's what I think: the charter failed because voters knew the deck was stacked early on in favor of ousting the city manager in favor of the mayor.

Even though the commission ultimately decided to keep the manager, they gave increased power to the mayor—veto and voting rights, mainly. The charter also required the manager to confer with the mayor on key personnel decisions. It

basically stripped the manager of a good chunk of her authority—which makes life difficult if the two disagree on something.

Voters were also aware that—immediately after they voted to open the charter in 2003—Mayor Hilliard Hampton involved himself in the process by inviting a Wayne State University scholar to talk up the process of a strong mayor.

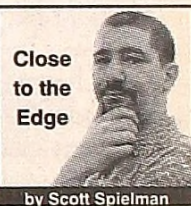
Hampton was also given carte blanche to speak to the commission whenever he wanted by the commission chairman, Dr. Terrel LeCesne, who early on this process would cut people off who wanted to speak about the perils of a strong mayor.

After awhile, the commission meetings resembled a PR event more than the deliberate, thoughtful process voters expected when they agreed to open the document.

Yes, we know charter revision is not an unusual activity for municipalities to undertake. But Inkster officials have a way of using a revision for political means. They did it in 2003 and in 1980.

It doesn't exactly inspire confidence when a commissioner stands at the podium during a pub-

See **Defeat**, page 5



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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.
Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone 734-467-1900

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Letters

School administrators support new legislation

To the editor:

Proposal 5—rejected by 62 percent of Michigan voters—should serve as a wake-up call for all of us in education. Clearly, we cannot make the case for increased educational investments without tackling the rising cost of school employee health benefits.

Help is already on the way. Senate Bills 895-898, currently before the Michigan Legislature, will introduce meaningful competition and allow schools to more easily form self-insured pools.

The AFT-Michigan teachers union estimates these bills will save Michigan schools \$573 million in just three years. That's \$573 million more to hire new teachers, reduce class sizes, improve technology, and buy more textbooks.

This common-sense legislation could save Michigan's public schools up to 17 percent on health care costs — because where competition exists, prices decline.

No one wants to see teachers

lose benefits. After all, high quality teachers are the key to our students' futures. But teachers' benefits won't mean much if schools can't afford to hire them. Moreover, research has shown that the market can provide similar benefits at a lower cost.

Just as Michigan's auto industry is facing up to economic realities, the entire education community must roll up their sleeves and refuse to allow classroom dollars to be diverted to high-cost benefits when less expensive, but high quality, insurance alternatives are available.

Please join us in urging our state legislators to approve Senate Bills 895-898 to help make sure more tax dollars are spent on students and their education, not on teachers' health insurance benefits.

William H. Mayes,
Executive Director, Michigan Association of School Administrators

Justin P. King,
Executive Director, Michigan Association of School Boards

Lesson

FROM PAGE 4

then claim you feel fine, the officer who will ultimately arrest you will look at you skeptically. The judge will frown at you when you say you didn't feel hindered by alcohol when you got into your car to drive home. There's no way around it, once a certain series of events gets into motion.

The bottom line is even if you're 'fortunate' and you don't cause any accidents or get yourself or someone hurt on the way home, you will still face hardships. At a minimum, you'll have to pay about \$1,100 within 90 days, even if you decide not to hire a lawyer. The state will ask for \$500 for the next two years when you try to renew your license, but you already know how I feel about that.

In my case, well, that alone put me to the brink. I drive a Ford Focus wagon. I live in a 1,000 square foot house in Wayne. I go out once in a while. In short, I'm not exactly living large. But I'm a family guy, living essentially paycheck to paycheck. I couldn't come up with that kind of money on my own.

Then there's the disruption to your life: a restricted license,

meaning you can't legally go out and pick up a pizza. You can drive to work and you can drive home. There's the time commitment: 40 hours of community service—in addition to the weekly classes and alcohol anonymous sessions.

The best way to get someone's attention, my class leader said, was to take their time and their money. This does that, all right.

He said something else, too.

"Take a look to your left and your right," he said, pushing his glasses up on his nose. He sighed heavily.

"The person sitting on your left and your right will be here again. Two out of every three people charged with drunk driving will be repeat offenders."

We've all been in this spot before, waking up with a splitting head, a queasy stomach, and promising ourselves some life-

altering change just to make it through the day.

I'm sure everyone in that class had the same thought. It's probably pretty common for people to say one thing and then do another; for them to say they'll never have another drink and get behind the wheel, they'll never make the mistake again. Some make the mistake again, anyway.

Not me, though. That's the most important thing I've learned from this. I'll think of my wife, Lisa, wondering where I am or if she's going to get another call in the middle of the night. I'll think of my son, Henry, wondering aloud why I can never buy him anything or—worse—continually asking why God had to take his dad away.

Think about things like that before you decide to trust your altered perceptions. The rest should be easy.

Park

FROM PAGE 4

It's likely, however, that Mayor Sandra Cicirelli knew about the issue earlier this year. If that's the case, we think she should have acted earlier to respond to the issue. It might have meant moving things around for some of the community events and getting more details and acting on the known trouble areas, but the result would have been more positive than trying to do spin control after the fact. There's a lot of weight in the simple phrase: this is

only for precautionary measures, we want to make certain of the safety of all of our residents. She has the leadership skills to make that judgment call.

There's little that can be done about that now. What matters now is what is to be done with the site, and how clean up should be completed—if it is determined that it is necessary.

For that, we suggest the simple solution that should have taken place all along: work with the county, make sure that the city does not have to pay for it, and keep the residents informed at every step.

Defeat

FROM PAGE 4

lic meeting to say the new charter will bring broad improvements to the Inkster Police and Fire Pension board (in reality, only the employees in three positions would have improvements – the 60 existing pensioners would get nothing), and the attorney the board hired to handle it's affairs got up afterward and said that statement was misleading.

There's going to be talk of amending

the charter by a majority vote of the council to enact some of the changes proposed in the charter. If that happens, it will be a slap in the face to voters, who will remember it when the mayor and council come up for election next year.

Commissioners and the mayor said the 40-year-old charter hindered the ability to govern. However, there is new development, there's going to be a new city hall, and the city has managed to balance the books in a difficult statewide fiscal environment, proving once and for all that the charter is not as prohibitive as it was made out to be.

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THE SCENE

Stranger than Fiction

Reviewed By
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer



Bland film is not what audiences expected

In the world presented in *Stranger than Fiction*, anything can happen.

As the line between truth and fiction is blurred, however, the outcome might prove surprising.

The film, rated PG-13, follows the life of Harold Crick (Will Ferrell), an IRS auditor who takes being a creature of routine to a whole new level. Day after day, he does the exact same thing in exactly the same way. Then, he hears a voice. It isn't the voice of God telling him what to do in Joan of Arc-style. It also isn't, he feels, an imaginary voice that should tell him that he needs prescription medication. Instead, the voice simply narrates the mundane activities that constitute his life—catching a bus, brushing his teeth, doing some filing. That is, until the voice mentions that Crick was unaware of his imminent death.

Across town, prominent writer Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson) battles a case of writer's block that has plagued her for nearly a decade. Despite her best efforts, she just can't seem to figure out a good way to kill off her main character—an IRS auditor named Harold Crick.

With the aid of a college literature professor (Dustin Hoffman) with a unique outlook on life, Crick needs to



find some way to get the voice out of his ears and keep the words of the omniscient voice from coming true. Toss in a pretty—if angry—anarchist (Maggie Gyllenhaal) and his life is just starting to get interesting. But what can you do when a force outside of you unknowingly controls

your destiny?

Although the film has a relatively new premise, it still manages to feel predictable. While watching it, memories of *The Truman Show*, which starred Jim Carrey as the unwitting star of his own reality show, came to mind. Even though it may be a fairly new idea, it's not as much fun when you can see things coming from a mile away.

Ferrell is great; it seems like a good role for the *Saturday Night Live* alum. It's a slightly different direction for him, but it works. Thompson is always good, although this time out left her a little over the top.

Although the movie is reasonably good, the funniest scenes are, without fail, the ones shown in the previews. Do not, I repeat, do not spend \$8 on the movie to see a typical Will Ferrell oddball comedy. You won't get it. Aside from those few scenes in the previews, the film is as much a drama as a comedy and Ferrell fans might not appreciate the change. Two walked out during the show I attended while another guy snored through the second half of the 3 p.m. show.

In the end, it's a vanilla yogurt kind of film. It's not bad. Some people will love it. It will get the job done, but it is surprisingly bland.

Annual Wayne County Lightfest display begins tonight

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

above Hines Park in Westland as Wayne County begins the Lightfest.

Tonight, fireworks will fill the sky

The 4-mile long drive began nearly a decade ago as members of the Wayne

County Parks Department sought to find a way to bring more visitors into the parks and to honor the holiday seasons, said Beverly Watts, director of Wayne County Parks.

Since then, the event has continued to grow.

"This is the longest holiday drive in the Midwest," she said. "It's a wonderful family oriented event."

More than a million holiday lights will twinkle and glow as 35 animated displays pay tribute to the upcoming holiday seasons. It's a massive undertaking.

"Our maintenance staff started (setting up) on Oct. 1," said Watts. "It takes anywhere from six to eight weeks."

It's worth the effort, though. Watts said that everything that goes into putting on an activity of this kind pays off when workers see the smiles the displays bring to the faces of visitors.

"These are memories that will never be forgotten," she said.

Wayne County Parks staff have already begun to compile ideas for new additions to the display in upcoming years, Watts added.

Although the fireworks display will be a one-night-only event, there is more to the Lightfest than just admiring the lights. At the Warrendale Recreation

area, children will be able to drop off their Christmas letters to Santa Claus while their parents browse in Santa's Workshop. Santa himself will be on site from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. Refreshments will also be available.

"It's a wonderful atmosphere," Watts said.

The Lightfest will originate at the Hines Drive entrance off of Merriman Road. The entrance is located just north of Warren Road and about 2 1/2 miles south of I-96 in Westland.

Tonight, the festivities and the fireworks will begin at 6. The display will otherwise be open daily from 7-10 p.m. through Jan. 1. It will be open every evening except Christmas Day. Hines Drive will be closed to general traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. each day. A donation of \$5 per car is requested to offset the costs of operating the show.

On Dec. 7, 14, and 21, visitors are asked to donate a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the regular admission donation. The items collected on "Toy Night" will be distributed to charitable groups including the Wayne County Family Shelter, C.O.T.S., and Toys for Tots.

For more information, contact Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990.



Ohio bound

Searcy heads to University of Dayton

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Devin Searcy is known for making bold moves on the court, but he recently made one off the hardwood.

The University of Michigan, Connecticut, Florida State and Xavier—the list goes on and on as far as potential suitors for the 6-foot-9, 200-pound Romulus senior basketball player.

Last Wednesday, Searcy signed his national letter of intent to play ball at the University of Dayton in Ohio. It wasn't only a bold move, he said, but a smart one.

"They have everything that I need as far as academics and athletics," Searcy said. "They're on the rise as far as athletics. I feel that in my freshman year I can go in there and make a big impact and that's what I was looking for."

He feared that at a bigger university he would get lost in the hype. He had thought about University of Michigan for a while—where two former teammates Ron Coleman and Jerrett Smith play. However, the Wolverines already have a lot of big players and his chances of starting in his first year were slim.

"My long-term goal is to get in the NBA and play," Searcy said. "You get that by developing your game and the more you play, the

more you develop your game so that's why I wanted to go somewhere where I could play right away."

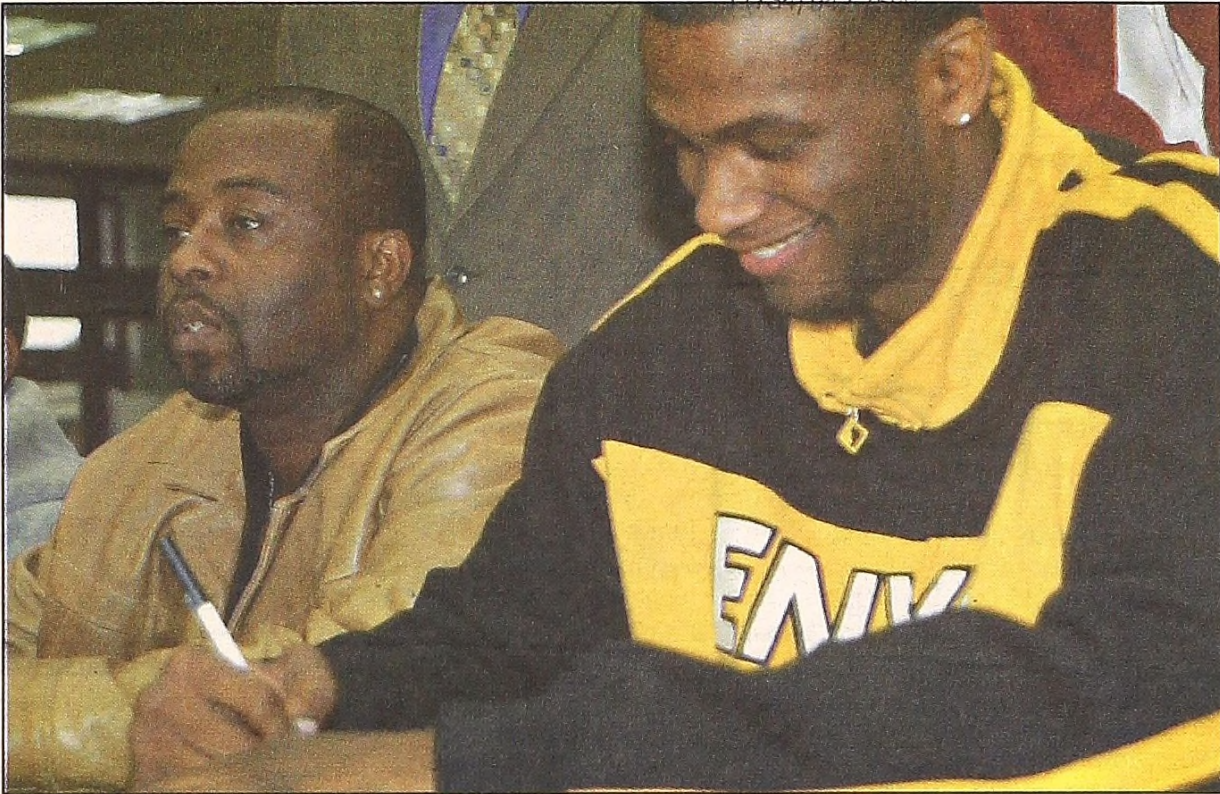
Searcy has been a proficient rebounder and shot blocker for Romulus for the last two years. He had a good off-season, developing his offensive skills to make himself even more valuable to Romulus—and to recruiters.

"He has improved a lot even from last year," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "I think we're even going to play more up and down than we ever have, which I think will help Devin. He's going to have a really good senior year."

"Dayton doesn't have anyone in its program that can do what Devin can," he added. "They have some big guys, but nobody that is long and athletic and runs like Devin. Their bigger guys are more half-court players, but nobody that can block shots and change the shape of the game like Devin can. He will be able to start right away because he's offering them something that they don't have in the program."

Dayton was 23rd in the country as far as attendance last year and has made the NCAA tournament before, according to Oats. He also said the A-10 is one of the best leagues that isn't a so-called major league.

The Flyers had a sub-par sea-



Romulus center Devin Searcy, with father Charles (left), signed his national letter of intent to play basketball at the University of Dayton on a scholarship.

son last year but a with recent recruiting the program could turn around this year.

"They're going to be pretty good in years to come," Searcy said. "The start of it is going to be this year. I think they're going to do really good and I just can't wait to help them."

"I'll bring in a defensive presence," he added. "I developed a really good offensive game over summer. That's also going to help. I can score down low in the 15-foot area and that's going to bring a lot of good things to that school and get us pretty far."

Although some may feel it was a risky decision, everyone has supported Searcy

through the process.

"The whole family is excited," said Charles Searcy, Devin's father. "I'm really impressed with the University of Dayton and I'm proud of the decision that he made. At first I think he was a little hesitant to tell me he picked Dayton because he had other schools all over the country recruiting him. He could have picked any of them, but when I took the visit everyone at Dayton was like a family and treated us like family. It's smaller and more personal so that's exactly what Devin needs. I think it's a good

move."

While at the university Searcy plans to study sports management. If his dream of playing professional basketball falls through he wants to be to eventually be a sports agent. His family believes the NBA isn't that far off.

"He wants to go to the NBA and I know for sure he'll make," his father said, "and he knows for sure that he will make it. It's just one step at a time."

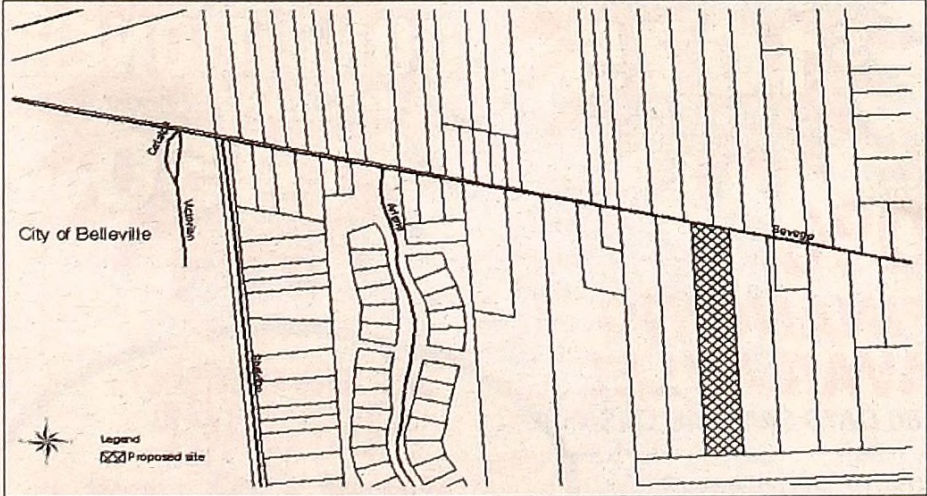
With his talent, levelheaded demeanor and especially his 6-foot-nine frame it shouldn't be that big of a step for Searcy.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This property is located on the south side of Savage Road between Arlene Lane and Martinsville Road whose parcel tax ID number is V125-83-105-990026-000 also known as 970 Savage. A map indicating the location of the proposed site is below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for Child Care Centers per Section 7.03(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., on the date of the hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

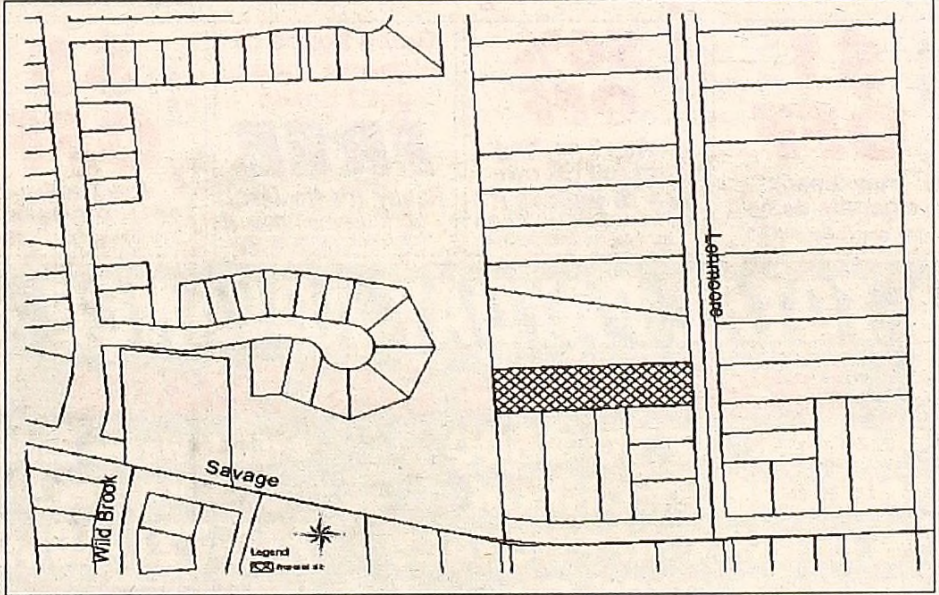
Posted: November 16, 2006
Publish: November 16, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This property is located on the west side of Lenmoore, north of Savage Road east of Martinsville Road whose parcel ID number is V125-83-101-01-0007-301, also known as 14216 Lenmoore. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting Planning Commission approval to construct a pole barn with area that exceeds the maximum permitted by the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended by 266 square feet.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2006. In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: November 16, 2006
Posted: November 16, 2006

Attention

Veterans recall years of service at city luncheon

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Some are good and some are difficult, but all the memories of serving their country brought many veterans together at the September Days Senior Center.

For 78-year-old Don Bosman, who was in both the U.S. Navy and Army, it was a good experience, he said.

"I saw many countries I never would have seen otherwise," said Bosman, a Van Buren Township resident.

As a radio operator in the task force, prior to that a pilot, he spent three and a half years in the navy before he moved on to the army and was then recalled to the seas.

"One memory that really sticks out is going through one of the greatest typhoons of the Pacific," Bosman said. "The military was all good memories, though."

Ypsilanti resident Evelyn Johnson said she really enjoyed her service and training in the U.S. Air Force. She was a med-

ical technician in the 41st squadron from 1951-1954 during the Korean War.

"Being away from home was the most difficult, but I can still remember my first 'hop.' I was young so I could do those things then," said 74-year-old Johnson. "As a woman in the military, it gave me a challenge, but I liked that. I had never been away from home for a long time and this gave me that to enjoy."

Her training was just like the men's, she said—tough—but also something she liked.

"I'm glad for that. I didn't look at it as a hardship," said Johnson.

Johnson was honorably discharged and used her GI bill to go to Cleary College.

Harry Vaughn, 83, brought his military medals to share during the luncheon.

"I got a good conduct medal, battle stars and victory medals all from World War II," he said, "but there were no fun days."

Vaughn, a combat engineer and demolition expert from 1943-1945, said he recalls bloodshed, bombings, sleeping in his truck



Ypsilanti resident Evelyn Johnson and Belleville resident Harry Vaughn (pictured with his military medals) were just two of the many to share their experiences and stories during the annual Veteran's Day luncheon at the September Days Senior Center.

and the rubble of the city he was stationed in from the moment he landed there.

"You could drive around the road and see it all. There was no resistance there," he said. "It was either give up or die in those battles."

Vaughn had a close encounter with a bombing but was lucky enough to never get hit, he said. His wife Mildred is grateful.

"When he was gone, I thought about

him a lot, I prayed for him a lot, but I wasn't too worried. I had to lead my own life," she said.

The veteran's luncheon is something the senior center hopes to continue. This is the third annual event.

"We like it and I'm thankful we can provide this place for all of them to come and share their experiences," said Sarah Scherdt, senior coordinator at September Days.

Library plans holiday story time for preschoolers and toddlers

The Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville will host free holiday story time for children starting this week.

The preschool program—for children ages 3 ½ to 6—will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays from now through Dec. 11 and at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays now through

Dec. 12. It will include songs, stories, discussion and more.

The toddler program—for children ages 2 to 3 ½—will take place at 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays from now through Dec. 13. It will include story time on the rug, along with books, songs and

activities.

The READ sessions with Therapaws Dogs will take place from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Dec. 2. Children ages 5-8 can read with one of the library dogs.

The program utilizes registered therapy dogs that have been trained and tested

for health, safety and proper temperament. Together with their trainer, the dogs act as reading companions to children who need practice reading aloud.

For more information about the programs, contact the library at (734) 699-3291.

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SPORTS

Viking quest

Inkster wins regional finale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Vikings sailed into new territory last week by winning their first regional championship.

With that said, it's everyone else that needs to discover something: Inkster is the real deal. The mighty Vikings dominated every aspect of Saturday's game against Olivet as they earned a 31-6 victory.

In the contest the, the Vikings proved that they can do it all. If they're not going through the air, they're tearing up the turf. In the last couple weeks, Inkster relied heavily on Aaron Shaver's arm. This time the legs of seniors Tim Hogue and Anre' Goree carried the team through the mud to the victory.

The team, as a whole, recorded 446 rushing yards. Hogue went out in the first quarter with a bruised shoulder but he already had accumulated 107 yards on five plays. The bulk of the load transferred to Goree, who finished with 199 yards on 18 carries—three were to pay dirt. Shavers even traded in slinging lightning bolts for thundering runs, gaining 112 yards on nine carries and two scores.

Goree got things rolling on the team's first possession. He bounced to the outside and scored untouched from the 4-yard line.

Olivet put together a 12-play drive that resulted in a 34-yard field goal by Zach Campbell with 52 seconds left in the first quarter.

The teams traded fumbles to start the second period of play.

Inkster went 37 yards on nine plays, ending with a one-yard plunge by Goree to make it a 13-3 game. Campbell answered with a 24-yard field goal at the 3:47 point.

Unfortunately for Olivet that would be all they could do. They had a chance on Inkster's next possession when Devin Oberlin made an outstanding play and intercepted Shaver's pass. The Viking defense shut the Eagles down.

The interception was only Shaver's fourth of the year out of 136 attempts for more than 1,300 yards. He only threw six passes for minimal yards against Olivet but he got it done on the ground, scoring twice. He scored on a 48-yard jaunt to close out the first half and on a one-yard scamper to the far corner of the end zone at 6:01 of the third, making it 25-6.

Goree finished off the scoring with a seven-yard score.

"I thought I was going to stay at wide receiver but coach told me to move to running back," Goree said. "The line just blocked real good and they opened up the holes."

Depth was the key for Inkster, according to Coach Greg Carter.

"We know in this game (football) that anything can happen and we have to be prepared," he said. "We have a lot of good players that work hard. We missed Tim (Hogue). We wished he could have played a little more but we knew Anre' would do a good job."

Carter led on to believe that it wasn't as easy of a win as the score might suggest.

"(Olivet) has an outstanding

See Vikes, page 11



Senior guards Taylor Manley (left) and Danica Holmes are dynamic together on the court for Belleville and hope to lead their Lady Tigers to a state championship.

Belleville's 'Dynamic Duo'

Senior guards hope to lead Tigers to championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Danica Holmes and Taylor Manley—Belleville's own dynamic duo—are quickly, and not so much quietly anymore, becoming two of the most dominant players in high school basketball.

They're both seniors. They're both 17. And they're both guards.

The similarities don't end there. They may not use hi-tech gadgets that Gotham's crime-fighting duo does but they both do possess powerful skills on the court that have, more than once, gotten Belleville out of a jam.

They are both lightning quick. Both have the strength to heave triples from outside the arc and the finesse to work their way to the rim. They're uncannily accurate; stealthy when it comes to pick-pocketing the ball; and have an endless supply of energy, lasting entire games with little to no rest.

Manley-Holmes, Holmes-Manley has become synonymous with Belleville girls basketball during the last four years when the two made the varsity squad together as freshmen. Manley scores an average of about 22 points per game and Holmes adds another 17-19 a contest. In a recent contest against Romulus they both scored 25 in the win.

Simply put, they can do it all and do it all well.

"They are probably the two best guards in the state," said Belleville Coach Kevin Edwards. "They're both division-one quality. It's not too often you get one that is as good as one of them let alone two. And on top of it all they are both unselfish and are great individuals, too."

"I think it really comes down to how they were brought up," he added. "They are both humble and easy going and that comes from their parents; their upbringing."

ing."

Worlds apart

Manley grew up a world away in Kentucky where she learned to play basketball at the age of five with her best friend, Cherrell Hausley, in a YMCA group. After that they started playing in little leagues together. Her family moved to Belleville when her father was transferred through work—just in time for her freshman year in high school.

Basketball south of here was a lot different.

"We played a lot basketball in Kentucky but nothing like when I first came up here," she said. "The gym is opened all day, every day. It wasn't like in Kentucky where I was. The coaching style is different, too. Up here they care what you do and where you go. In Kentucky it's just a bunch of recruiting."

She attended practice at Belleville High where she didn't expect to make—let alone start—at such a high level.

"It was a surprise," she said. "I didn't know what to expect when I moved up here. I went through a couple of drills and I remember going out on the track and meeting some of the girls—they were so big. I really didn't expect to be on varsity."

Although Manley misses Hausley a great deal she quickly bonded with the other Lady Tigers, including fellow freshman-starter Holmes.

Holmes, a daughter of a pastor and a native of Ypsilanti, started playing ball at an early age, too. The self-proclaimed tomboy got on board at four years old under the guidance of older brothers Mario and Junior. From there it was the express lane to the varsity level—an honor in her eyes.

"It was good experience early," she said. "I think that's what has helped me out now as a senior. It was kind of hard the

first two years—coach was on me a lot, and still is—about shooting and playing defense. All of that is better now and I'm thankful for it."

It may seem like that there would be more squalor than scoring on the court, having two such high caliber players on the same floor at the same time. But that's not how it is with Holmes and Manley.

"Danica and I are friends on and off the court," Manley said. "A lot of people might think that if I score a lot she would be disappointed or if she scores a lot I would feel the same way, but it's not like that. We back each other up."

Looking to the future

Win or lose this year Manley and Holmes have to look beyond this season and into the future where they both want to play in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

However, they first have to take the next step. Unfortunately, that's the disquieting thing about the Manley-Holmes situation. As good as they both are, neither has received scholarship offers from a Division 1 university...yet.

"It's disappointing," Manley said. "It's getting late and I want to at least be talking to some schools. At AAU I had a small D-1 schools interested—Chicago State University, North Carolina-Wilmington, Pennsylvania-Lafayette. I don't know if it's because their season is in (right now) or what."

North Dakota, Sienna Heights and Central Michigan are a few of the smaller schools looking at Manley. Strangely enough, they're the same schools looking at Holmes, too. It could be a possibility the dynamic duo could remain intact at the next level as well.

See Lady Tigers, page 10



The Inkster football team held Olivet to six points at home on Saturday to win a Division 6 regional championship. Anre' Goree (above) rushed for 199 yards in the, 36-6, victory.

SPORTS

Belleville wins Mega Red

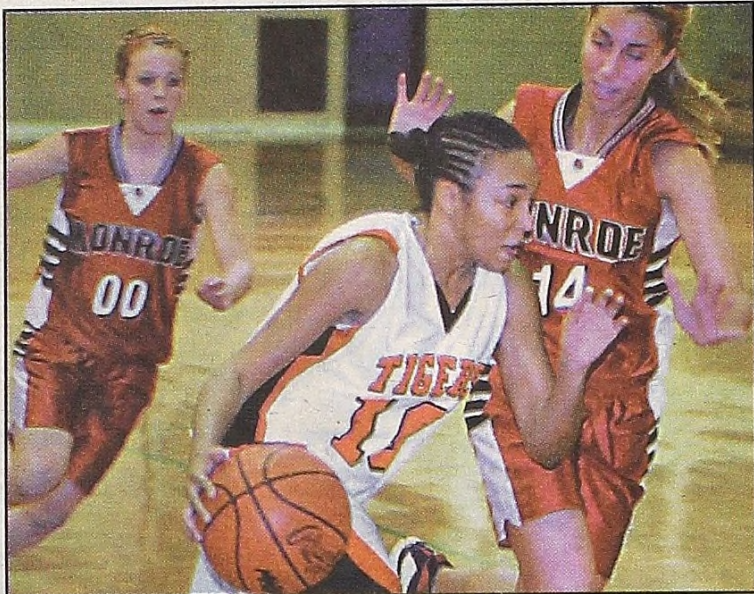
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It was a long time in the making but Belleville regained the Mega Red crown with a 61-55 home victory against Monroe on Thursday.

The Lady Tigers, ranked No. 5 in the state in Class A, won three straight titles from 1998-2000 and fell just short last year. The climb back to the top involved an 18-game win streak after they lost the season opener to non-league foe Salem High School. Since then it's been all Belleville as they beat rivals such as Inkster, Romulus and Monroe.

On Thursday night—also Senior Night—the Lady Tigers, to no one's real surprise, rallied behind the sharp shooting of senior guard Taylor Manley. She scored 32 points throughout the contest—16 of those came in the first half. She was also 14 for 14 from the stripe.

Before Monroe knew what had hit them, Belleville was up 18-0. Monroe managed two baskets to avoid a first-quarter



Danica Holmes and the Lady Tiger teammates held off the Monroe Trojans, 61-55, to win the Mega Red Championship crown on Thursday.CaFootball

shutout. Belleville extended the gap, taking a 31-14 lead at the half-time buzzer.

The tide changed in the second half when Monroe got its bearings.

The Lady Trojans conjured up turnovers that equaled points. They narrowed the gap some in the third by outscoring the Tigers, 15-11. Cassidy Lay knocked down a triple to bring Monroe to within three, 58-55, with about 35 seconds left in the fourth. Belleville stood strong and made free throws the rest of the way for the win.

"The girls came out focused," said Belleville Coach Kevin Edwards. "They made sure to finish off the Mega Red.

We played good defense and pushed the ball. We came out on fire and everything was good from the start. Taylor's shot was going so she just kept shooting."

Courtney Holland finished the night with 12 points and nine rebounds for the Lady Tigers. Danica Holmes added eight and Amber Brown snagged 13 rebounds.

Belleville also beat Wyandotte, 47-37, last Tuesday. Manley scored 17 and Holmes, 12.

The Lady Tigers received a pass in the first round of district play at Romulus. They played either Romulus or John Glenn on Wednesday but the results were unavailable at press time.

Lady Tigers

FROM PAGE 9

"I was kind of hoping that we would be able to play together in college," Holmes said. "We both know each other so that would be good to play at the next level on the same team."

Rising above the turbulence

It hasn't all been a bed of roses for the two super stars since they first set foot on the hardwood as varsity players.

The first two years on the varsity squad were turbulent, at best. The team turned it around last year and won the district championship but fell in the regional tournament.

This year Belleville has won 18 straight, losing only one game to Salem in the season opener back in August.

Manley believes that the team bonded over the summer during AAU play and that has carried over to the school season. The game of basketball itself proves that you need more than two players to be a contender. A cast of supporters, including sophomore guard Mariah Gordon at the point, surrounds Manley and Holmes. Junior Courtney Holland averages double figures on the boards every game night, too.

"I think everyone on the team is feeling great," she said. "It's that whole bonding thing...you can't go wrong with bonding."

"I think now we're all on the

same page and we're more comfortable around each other on and off the court," Holmes added. "I think that's what makes us a good team. Once we got closer together there was more of a connection on the court."

"Everybody has their part," Manley finished. "We all need each other and we all know that."

Holmes, Manley and the rest of the team is taking it one game at a time with hopefully the last step being at the Breslin Center in bout for the State Championship.

"The team feels pretty confident," Holmes said. "We're all talking about states already but we're trying not to get ahead of ourselves too much. We're still thinking about one game at a time but our main goal is to go to states and win everything."

"I want to win everything," Manley said. "We're going all the way."

If all goes right—and a lot of pieces have to fall into the right places—Belleville could face Salem in the state finale.

"I'd love it," Manley said.

"We want to play them again," Holmes added.

That's still a ways away and they both agree that they and their team needs to stay focused and hopefully the hard work will pay off.

"Everything that we're doing now will pay off in the end when we win states and the underdogs will be on top," Holmes said.

Whoever said they were the underdogs?

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SPORTS

Canton wins regional crown

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Saline appeared to be just another rest stop on the road to the state championship berth for the Canton Chiefs.

There was no stopping Canton's offense—or defense—as they routed the Hornets in a 56-36 shootout at the P-CEP corral on Friday night.

Saline committed three turnovers in the first half—a big no-no when facing Canton—allowing the Chiefs to dominate the game. The win gave Canton their second consecutive regional crown.

Junior linebacker Dan Wanshon intercepted a Kyle Brown pass on Saline's 38 at the 5:35 mark of the first frame. Canton was already up, 7-0, after a three-yard scoring run by senior halfback Antwaun Hawkins. Five plays after the interception, Nick Moores punched it in from two yards out to give Canton a 14-0 lead.

On a first-and-goal on their next possession, the Hornets fumbled and Canton recovered the ball on their own 10. The Chiefs then drove the length of the field in a series capped with a 12-yard run by Moores.

On Saline's next drive, senior linebacker Will Turner hit Brown from behind on a passing play, dislodging the ball. Fellow senior linebacker Doug Hasse scooped up the fumble and returned it for a 32-yard touchdown. The third turnover score put Canton up 28-0 with 7:15 left in the second quarter. Moores later added a 34-yard score with 2:11 left in the half.

Brown had a one-yard run and a 39-yard



Canton's Antwaun Hawkins (24) was an essential part in the Chiefs, 56-36, regional championship victory against Saline on Friday night. He rushed for 143 yards and two scores.

field goal to get Saline on the board.

The two teams alternated scores throughout the second half.

Saline scored on its opening drive with a 23-yard pass play from Brown to Kyle Dishman. Canton answered with a five-yard run by senior fullback Deshon McClendon.

Brown also hit Mike Adler and Austin Trott for five and 26-yard scores, respectively. Vince Halmuth finished the scoring with a three-yard run.

Canton's last two scores were a 26-yard run by Hawkins and a three-yarder by senior quarterback Steve Paye.

"The first half we were aggressive and got to them," Baechler said. "We got a scoop-and-score off of it and the second half we weren't

able to do it to them. We knew we could shut their run down and we knew they had trouble stopping the run."

The Chiefs held Saline to 38 rushing yards while racking up 427 on their side of the ball. Moores rushed for 185 yards on 21 carries and Hawkins had 143 yards on 20 carries.

Brown completed 21 of 34 passes for 334 yards for Salem. Paye was a perfect 3-for-3 for 58 yards.

Canton will have its work cut out for them on Saturday when they face off against Rockford at Lansing Everett. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Rockford defeated Canton, 31-21, in the Division 1 state championship finale last year at Ford Field.

Vikes

FROM PAGE 9

defense," he said. "Their offense is exciting. They have a great running back and the quarterback is one of the best that we've played against. The credit has to go to our defense to hold a team like that to six points in these conditions."

This is the furthest that the Vikings have made it in the post season, allowing seniors at least one more game.

"Last year we made it to this point and we lost," Goree said. "So being a senior and advancing to the next game I feel real good."

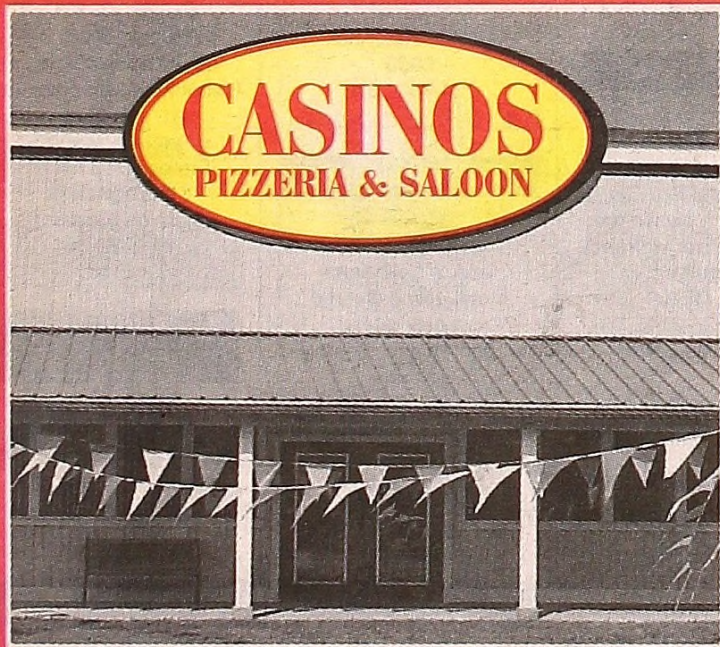
Inkster (11-1) will head to Olivet College for a 1 p.m. semi-final match-up with Montague (8-4). Although this is the deepest Inkster has made it in the playoffs there is some history with their next opponent.

While assistant coaching at Detroit St. Martin De Poress, Carter defeated the Wildcats in the 1992 state finale. Montague's then quarterback is now the head coach and the then head coach is the athletic director.

Carter admits he sees similarities on tape but knows it will be a difficult task against a difficult team.

"We're going to play even harder next week," Goree said. "We know that the teams are going to get better and better so we're just going to get prepared and practice hard."

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1. Obituaries

Be it known to all men and/or any interested parties, the Inkster Housing Commission gives proper and due notice that any and all possessions belonging to:

Eddie Colquitt
2000 Inkster Rd. #4528
Inkster, MI 48141

Eddie Colquitt passed away November 6, 2006. All remaining possessions will become property of the Inkster Housing Commission, unless otherwise properly claimed and removed in five (5) days.

JONES, Jeffrey Paul, 59 of Plymouth, died Nov. 13, 2006. Beloved husband, loving father and grandfather, he was a hero to his family. Born in Des Moines, Iowa on December 15, 1946, the third child of Robert and Mary Jones. Jeff graduated from Stepinac High School in White Plains, NY in 1964. He earned his BS, MS and MBA from the University of Detroit. He was active in Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity, serving as his chapter's President and Pledge Master. Jeff worked as an engineer and a supervisor for Ford Motor Company, and then Visteon for 36 years. He was an active volunteer with the Plymouth, Michigan Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jan; son Ralph Jones (Marietta), daughter Rachel Smith (Paul), grandchildren Luka and Niko Jones, sisters Sheila Reagan and Molly Jones, brother R. Michael Jones, and Maternal uncle Paul Burd. He is predeceased by a brother, Christopher Jones. Service Saturday 11:00 AM at Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Friday 5-8PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Memorial contributions to the Salvation Army or Karmanos Cancer Institute would be appreciated. To leave a message of condolence for the family log on to vermeulenfuneralhome.com

MOSS, Ruby. Ruby went home to be with our Lord on October 23, 2006 at the age of 86. Loved by all, Ruby will be remembered by many as the owner/operator of Ruby's Patio Produce in Canton, a fixture on Michigan Ave. for over 40 years. Prior to that, she ran a snack bar for several years and she worked at the bomb factory during WWII, being known as one of the "Rosie the Riveters." Beloved wife of the late

Lqurrence Tyree and R.L. Moss, she is also preceded in death by her parents, El Hannan Napier and Sally Watts Napier, one brother, Finas Napier, three sisters, Evelyn Napier, Helen Ritchie and Christine Cole and two sons, Leroy Tyree and Clifford Tyree. Ruby is survived by a brother, Dr. Rev. Patrick Napier, four daughters, Geraldine (William) Smith, Susan (Don) Riffenburg, Kathline Tyree and Sally (Helmer) Julin, two sons, Daniel (Janice) Moss and James (Chris) Moss, fifteen grandchildren, twenty nine great-grandchildren and thirteen great-great-grandchildren. She will always be loved and sorely missed by everyone. The family requests donations be made in Ruby's name to First Presbyterian Church, 159 W. 6th St., Russellville, KY 42276

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on November 30, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. at 40671 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were noted by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories.

Unit #G07-Leon
Misc. household, motorcycle

Unit #C205-Harris
Household goods

Unit #P10-Howell
1996 Caprice Classic

Unit #E24-Glazer
Household goods

Unit #E46-Lewis
Misc. household

Unit #F20-Patel
Misc. household

Unit #G03-Ritter
Household goods

Unit #D23-Steele
Household goods

Unit #E29-Walewski
Misc. household

PUBLIC AUCTION
December 3, 10:00AM
Fort Knox Self Storage
39205 Ford Rd., Westland
(734) 981-0700
www.fortknoxmi.com

In accordance with Michigan law, Fort Knox Self Storage will sell to the highest bidder, the entire contents of each of the following storage units. All units contain common household goods unless otherwise noted.

#539-J. Lindsey
#510-R. Lavigne
#490-R. Quinn
#351-R. Blue
#308-R. Grabiec
#291-L. Hayes
#284-W. Montgomery
#254-K. Clark
#277-D. Santos
#276-J. Jacoby
#186-F. Mallard
#116-W. Keating
#054-D. Tozer
#043-A. Wilkins
#220-D. Tozer

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Dec. 6, 2006 at 11:00 AM at:

J & M Towing
8964 Inkster Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

1995 Chevy
1GNDT13W5S2172909
2000 Dodge
2B4GP243XYR763751
1990 Ford
1FACP52U9LA238830
1991 Toyota
JT2EL48AXM0032364
1991 Cadillac
1G6CD53B1M4261098
1996 bFord
1FALP52U9TG230868
2001 Ford
1FTRX18L41N850754
1998 Dodge
1B3ES47C8WD519243
1999 Ford
3FAKP1132XR114617
1998 Ford
1FTZX172XWNB84018
1996 Chevy
1G1JC1246V7251405
1994 Honda
JHMCD5662SC035617
1990 Chevy
2G1WL54TXL1106489
1990 Lincoln
1LNLM81W4TY601349
1990 Mercury
2MECM75F3LX618456
1997 Mercury
2MELM74W6VX601042
1995 Ford
1FALP52U0SG188525
1999 Mond TRL
2MN123143X3011545
1999 Mond TRL
2MN123148X3011427
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2MN123148X3031523
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2MN123142X3011441
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2MN123148X3011444
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2MN123143X3011402
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2MN123149X3011470
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2MN123140X3011471
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2MN123142X3011605
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1M3LM53S5TG654014
2002 Jeep
1J4GL38K32W331873
1998 Ford
1FTRE1461WHB50301
1989 Mercury
1M3BM50U1KA645443
1992 Mercury
1MECM5342NG618642
Ford Expo
VIN N/A

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges

AUTO AUCTION
J & T Crova Towing
36573 Grant St.
Romulus, MI 48174
(734) 941-0221
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2006
9:00AM

1994 Ford Escort
1FARP11JXRW330714
1995 Cadillac SLS
1G6KS52Y3SU804035
1993 Mercury Topaz
2MEPM36X1PB644073
1988 Lincoln Town Car
1LNBM82F0JY746072
1993 Plymouth Voyager
2P4GH25K7PR360777
1994 Pontiac Grand Am
1G2NE5537RM502893
1996 Chevy Monte Carlo
2G1WX12XXT9247583
1996 Ford T-Bird
1FALP6248TH154821
1998 Dodge Caravan
2B4FP2538WR608784

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Everything you need to know for winter



Auto Advisor
by John Follino

Michigan winters can be very rough on vehicles regardless of make or model. Michigan drivers are faced with unpredictable snow and ice conditions, road hazards, and fellow drivers who, for reasons unknown, seem to forget how to navigate (drive) during inclement weather. Friends and/or family are always ready to give you advice. First, having your vehicle ready for the season can help you avoid hazardous situations on the road and possible expensive repair bills at your service center. I'm sure everyone has been advised on what to do to prepare your car for the winter, but we will revisit this topic in hopes of preparing you for the season and keeping you safe. Maintenance schedules for vehicles help remind car owners that your car needs attention on a regular basis. Checking tire pressure, fluid levels, and brake wear before the first major snowstorm is essential for safety and minimizing repair bills.

First, let's talk about tire pressure. Having properly inflated

tires will enable you to efficiently utilize the vehicle fuel economies to their best levels combined with your personal driving style. Low pressure will use up fuel mileage and lead to premature tire wear, improper tread wear, and potential blowouts. When having your vehicle serviced, ask your technician to look at the tires. They should be looking for irregular wear patterns that could indicate alignment or balancing issues, belt separation, road hazards, and wheel rim damage from poor road conditions. Michigan has long been known for potholes which contribute to the conditions mentioned. When you catch a pothole while driving, have a professional inspect the wheel and tire at your earliest convenience. This could save you an expensive repair and the inconvenience of breaking down when you least expect it.

Checking the fluids is important, also. Certainly, engine oil, transmission and brake fluid,

and antifreeze are the most important fluids that deserve your attention. Over the years, I have had many customers and friends who have asked me advice on leaks. Typically, someone has said to them that the small fluid leak they see in the driveway isn't serious. I'm here to tell you that fluid and oil leaks need to be checked. There are two reasons for this. First, all of the systems on your vehicle were designed to operate with fluid levels for specific reasons; cooling and lubrication and/or hydraulic applications. When a leak occurs, you run the risk of damaging that component and incurring an extensive repair. Second, a leak can be an early indication of a problem. Many times I had the pleasure of helping a customer avoid a large repair bill because they brought the car in for service before they created additional damage by procrastinating. The moral of the story is "don't wait to take your car in for an evaluation".

Transmission fluid needs to

be checked for the level and condition. Low fluid levels could indicate a leak or internal breach within the transmission cooling system and burnt fluid could indicate an overheating issue. Both conditions need to be evaluated by a professional technician. Ask your regular service center if they can service your transmission or if the can recommend a transmission shop or dealer that can help evaluate this component.

Antifreeze is an important fluid year round. In the summer antifreeze keeps your vehicle engine from overheating and in the winter, it keeps the engine from freezing. Over time, the earlier versions could breakdown and eventually deteriorate and lead to rusting within the cooling system. The new antifreeze coolants have long application lives and are environmentally friendly. Have your technician check your coolant reservoir, coolant levels, radiator, and engine hoses for premature wear.

Lastly, have the brake system

checked for brake wear and pad life. In addition, have your technician make sure the ABS system is working correctly. This will come in handy when driving is slippery conditions this winter.

If you have a specific question about your vehicle, e-mail me at johnf@switchtolariche.com. Have a safe holiday season and happy motoring.

Firefighters quell 2 serious home fires

Two major residential fires kept Canton firefighters busy in the early hours of Nov. 4.

Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher said 18 firefighters responded to 5112 W. Annapolis Circle at 2:41

a.m. on a report of a mobile home in flames. They didn't get too far in extinguishing the blaze before another call came in at 3:52 a.m. from dispatch: a large two-story home 8 miles away on

Wadebridge Drive was burning, too.

"We usually don't get two significant fires that close to each other," said Canton Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher. "It made it a

hectic night."

Fortunately, nobody was injured in either incident. Nobody was home in the first fire, which Rorabacher said was likely "totally destroyed."

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FR/SAT LS 11:45
SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G) 11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35
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